

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 11 and 15 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A recordable and/or rewritable recording medium to record data, including an entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, comprising:

a Lead-in area;

a Lead-out area; and

~~a the~~ user data area;

wherein upon the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing.

2. (original) The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

3. (original) The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

4. (currently amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein a recording medium, including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area and a user area, is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection ~~the of~~ data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, comprising:

checking the state of the recording medium; and

prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

5. (original) The write protection method of claim 4, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

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6. (original) The write protection method of claim 4, further comprising:
determining whether the recording medium is positioned in a case;
if the recording medium is installed in the case, checking whether the case is set to a write protection state; and
if the state of the recording medium checked in said checking of the state of the recording medium does not match the write protection state of the case, informing a user of the difference.

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7. (original) The write protection method of claim 6, further comprising:
prohibiting the writing of the data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium is checked as a write protection state in said checking of the state of the recording medium, or the state of the case checked in said checking whether the case is write protectant is a write protection state.

8. (original) The write protection method of claim 4, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of cartridge having a write inhibit hole for write protection.

9. (original) The write protection method of claim 8, further comprising:
determining whether the state of the recording medium matches the write protection state of the write inhibit hole; and
preventing writing of the new data on the recording medium if the state of the recording medium or the state of the write inhibit hole is set to a write protection state.

10. (original) The write protection method of claim 9, further comprising:
informing a user if the state of the recording medium and that of the write inhibit hole do not match.

11. (currently amended) A storage device comprising:
a recordable and/or rewritable recording medium including
a Lead-in area;
a Lead-out area; and

a user data area; and
a cartridge having a case which receives the recording medium;
wherein the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files,
recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed.

12. (original) The storage device of claim 11, wherein the case has a recognition switch for write protection.

13. (original) The storage device of claim 11, wherein the case does not have a recognition switch for write protection.

14. (original) The storage device of claim 11, wherein the recording medium is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

15. (currently amended) A recordable and/or rewritable recording medium, comprising:
a Lead-in area;
a Lead-out area; and
a user data area,
wherein, upon a finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, with the write protection information being redundantly stored in a plurality of locations in the Lead-in area, and wherein the recording medium is a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R and/or DVD-RW specification.
